

Message Text

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ACTION TRSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 H-01 L-03 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 SS-15
STR-06 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-03
INR-07 NSAE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04 SIL-01 /109 W
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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 906
INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

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USADB

PASS TREASURY FOR BRADFORD

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SHUM, BG
SUBJECT: ADVANCE INFORMATION CONCERNING PROPOSED ADB TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE PROJECT TO BANGLADESH (FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
CONSIDERATION)

1. IN ORDER TO PROVIDE WASHINGTON AS MUCH TIME AS POSSIBLE
TO CONSIDER HUMAN RIGHTS ASPECTS OF ADB PROJECTS, WE ARE
SUBMITTING THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON THE BALGLADESH
RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT:

2. ADB MANAGEMENT HAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED CONSIDERATION
BY BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF PROPOSED \$371,000 UNDP-FINANCED
TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE (TA) FOR RAILWAY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT
IN BANGLADESH ON FEBRUARY 28. OBJECT OF PROPOSED TA IS
TO ASSIST GOVERNMENT IN PREPARATION OF A RAILWAY DEVELOP-
MENT PLAN FOR THE NEXT TEN YEARS. THIS WILL INVOLVE A
COMPREHENSIVE AND DETAILED STUDY OF THE ENTIRE RAILWAY
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SYSTEM, INCLUDING DEVELOPMENT OF TRAFFIC FORE-
CASTS, INTERMODAL CONSIDERATION, OPERATIONAL AND
FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS, AS WELL AS INSTITUTIONAL AND
ORGANIZATIONAL ASPECTS. STUDY WILL ALSO REVIEW CONDITION
OF BANGLADESH RAILWAY'S ASSETS AND EXISTING MAINTENANCE
AND RENEWAL POLICIES. A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN WILL BE
FORMULATED FOR REHABILITATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE

RAILWAY FACILITIES FOR THE PERIOD 1980-1985.

3. PROPOSED TA PROJECT WILL ASSIST GOVERNMENT AND RAILWAY IN INVESTMENT PLANNING AND WILL ENCOURAGE BILATERAL AND MULTILATERAL AID TO THE RAILWAY. IT IS EXPECTED TO RESULT IN A NUMBER OF INVESTMENT PROPOSALS, IMPLEMENTATION OF WHICH WOULD, IN DUE COURSE, INCREASE THE VOLUME AND EFFICIENCY OF RAILWAY OPERATIONS WHICH, IN TURN, WOULD BENEFIT A LARGE SECTION OF THE POPULATION OF THE COUNTRY. THE RAILWAY IN BANGLADESH IS THE POOR MAN'S TRANSPORT, PARTICULARLY AS TARIFFS, BOTH FOR PASSENGERS AND FREIGHT, ARE LOW AND OTHER TRANSPORT MEDIA ARE NOT WELL DEVELOPED. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INVESTMENT PROJECTS IDENTIFIED AND INCREASE IN THE VOLUME OF RAILWAY OPERATIONS WILL, INTER ALIA, RESULT IN GREATER ACTIVITY IN TRADE/INDUSTRY WITH CONSEQUENT CREATION OF JOBS AND OTHER BENEFITS. THE NUMBER OF NEEDY PEOPLE WHO WILL BENEFIT CANNOT OBVIOUSLY BE DETERMINED AT THIS STAGE AND WILL DEPEND UPON FUTURE INVESTMENTS IN RAILWAYS THAT MAY MATERIALIZE ON COMPLETION OF THIS TA.

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Message Attributes

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